



# San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society

# WESTERN MEADOWLARK

Volume 65— Number 5  
May—June 2015

Wednesday May 20, 2015  
7:30P.M.

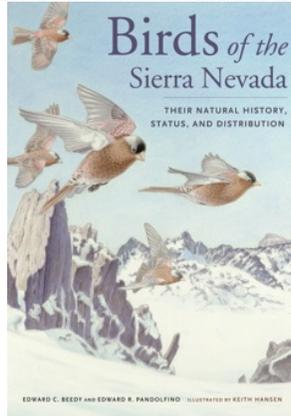
## *Birds of the Sierra Nevada* Presented by Ed Pandolfino

Ed will take us on a virtual trip across the range from the oak savanna in the west, through serene conifer forests of the west side, up into the majestic alpine regions, and down the steep eastern escarpment to the pinon/juniper woodlands and open steppes of the Great Basin. Along the way we'll see and hear the stunning diversity of birds that make the Sierra their home. We'll learn about how they use the various habitats in the Sierra and about which birds are in decline and which are expanding and increasing. We'll also address some mysteries surrounding some of those species and discuss how visitors to the Sierra can help to solve them.

Ed Pandolfino is Past-President of Western Field Ornithologists, a Regional Editor for Northern California for the *North American Birds*, and has published more than two dozen articles on status and distribution of western birds. He co-authored with Ted Beedy, *Birds of the Sierra Nevada: Their Natural History, Status, and Distribution*, illustrated by Keith Hansen and published by U.C. Press in May 2013.

Ed spent most of his early life on the move, living in many different states and countries and attending 13 different schools between first grade and high school. His first exposure to the Sierra came as a teenager, hunting, fishing, and backpacking, but somehow remaining essentially unaware of the birds. After a checkered and inconsistent college experience that included dropping-out and touring Europe as a drummer for a Rock & Roll band, Ed finally settled down and earned a Ph.D. in Biochemistry at Washington State University. He spent over twenty years working in various management positions in the medical device industry. After an eyeball-to-eyeball encounter with a Spotted Towhee (then Rufous-sided Towhee), Ed's relationship with birds transformed instantaneously from oblivious to obsessed. Since retiring in 1999 he has devoted his life to birds, working on habitat conservation and avian research.

Ed is past-president of Western Field Ornithologists and is one of the Regional Editors for *North American Birds* for Northern California. In the past several years, he has rediscovered his "inner scientist," and has published more than two dozen papers on status and distribution of western birds. He lives in Sacramento with his wife and close to both their children.



Wednesday, June 3, 2015 - 6:30 pm  
San Bernardino County Museum  
Come & Celebrate the Summer

Help us celebrate the end of our chapter's year, the beginning of summer, and the joy of nature at our June potluck dinner. **We will begin our evening of camaraderie at 6:30 pm, an hour earlier than usual.** SBVAS will supply a turkey and a ham as well as beverages. Please bring a dish to share - a salad, vegetable, casserole, or dessert. If possible, plan to share with 12 or more. Please remember to bring your own table service. We will also be hosting a silent auction, so bring your bird and nature related books and items you would like to donate for sale. Officers will be installed. This usually takes only a few minutes and then our members will provide the program by bringing 10-15 of their favorite nature slides to share. This is a great annual event and is fun for everyone. Come enjoy good friends, good food, and what is certain to be a terrific evening.



***Please note change in date and time!***

## Mark Your Calendar For the Next WFO Conference in BILLINGS, MONTANA 10-14 JUNE 2015

The 40th annual conference of Western Field Ornithologists will be held in Montana, marking the first time for the state. Field trips will visit a variety of habitats from the high mountains (Black Rosy-Finch) to the grasslands (Sprague's Pipits). One can see courting McCown's and Chestnut-collared Longspurs in their finest plumage, along with Upland Sandpipers and Lark Buntings. History buffs will delight in viewing the Little Bighorn Battlefield where Custer saw his last Sharp-tailed Grouse.

There will be workshops on field identification of sparrows (Jon Dunn) and flycatchers (Dan Casey), natural history of owls (Denver Holt), bird sound identification (Nathan Pieplow), raptors (Steve Hoffman), and more. Friday and Saturday afternoon science sessions will update you on the most current avian research from the region and the Saturday evening banquet will feature a keynote address by Stephen Dinsmore on Mountain Plovers. Ed Harper and Nathan Pieplow will again offer their ever-popular sessions on bird ID by sight and sound.

Registration for the conference will open in

(continued WFO, page 5)

### Local Sightings By Tom Benson

Welcome back to our sort of regular column that summarizes rare bird sightings over the seasons. This one is going to cover the period of December 2014 through March 2015, which is referred to in some parts of the country as winter. VARIOUS THRUSHES continued in large numbers throughout the region, with perhaps the most notable being a long-staying female at Salton Sea NWR HQ (Dec 15-Jan 30). The Salton Sink hosted a number of most excellent birds, with highlights being a ROSEATE SPOONBILL (Jan 10-Mar 21), two CRESTED CARACARAS (Dec 8, Jan 19-Feb 28), and a CAVE SWALLOW (Jan 25). Other notable birds in Imperial County were two BROWN CREEPERS at Picacho SRA (Dec 7), a BROWN THRASHER in Bard (through Dec 16), a PACIFIC/WINTER WREN at Finney Lake (Jan 4-Mar 7), and a RUFF at Garst Road (Mar 15).

Moving north into eastern Riverside County, the best finds were a migrant COMMON BLACK HAWK at Dos Palmas Oasis (Mar 15) and a YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER in Cathedral City that provided a pleasant Christmas surprise for many birders (Dec 25-Jan 25). Other highlights included a LONG-TAILED DUCK at Desert Center (Mar 13-14) and another at the Whitewater River delta (Jan 3), two BLACK SCOTERS (Jan 9) and an AMERICAN REDSTART (Jan 3-17) at the Whitewater River delta, a TROPICAL KINGBIRD in Mecca (Dec 2), and an EVENING GROSBEAK at Banning (Jan 2). The San Jacinto Valley was a productive area, as usual. Notable here were six FULVOUS WHIS-



DUCKS (Jan 3-7), a SANDHILL CRANE (Jan 25-Feb 8), RED-THROATED LOON (Dec 13-16), WHITE-WINGED SCOTER (Dec 16-20), LARK BUNTING (Dec 16), up to 12 MCCOWN'S LONGSPURS (Dec 18-Jan 16), and single LAPLAND LONGSPURS (Dec 19, Dec 22). Still further west, the wintering SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER made a rare appearance in the Riverside County portion of the Prado Basin (Mar 27), and a CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER remained at Fairmount Park through the end of March.

Finally to San Bernardino County, where the highlight was the county's second record of LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL at Big Bear Lake (Feb 13-Mar 11). Elsewhere in the mountains a BARROW'S GOLDENEYE was at Silverwood Lake (Jan 17), perhaps the same individual at Big Bear Lake earlier in the fall. Prado Regional Park boasted the largest concentration of good birds in the county, with RED-THROATED

LOON (Dec 19-Feb 8), MEW GULL (through Feb 8), THAYER'S GULL (through Jan 14), GLAUCOUS-WINGED GULL (through Jan 11), TROPICAL KINGBIRD (through Feb 14), SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER (Feb 6), NORTHERN PARULA (Feb 8-14), and two SWAMP SPARROWS (Dec 8-Feb 14). Also in the Prado Basin, an AMERICAN BITTERN was seen at Chino Creek Wetlands (Mar 1-7). A wintering AMERICAN REDSTART was in Loma Linda (Jan 2-21), while a VERDIN (Jan 20) and a SWAMP SPARROW (Mar 29) were seen in nearby San Timoteo Canyon. And last but not least, a BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE was on Lake Havasu (Feb 1).



### Tri County Birders

Many of our general meetings have been focused on Big Years or Big Days. If you haven't had a chance to check the top county listers on the SBVAS website, there is a summary below. Tom Benson compiled the data and Brad Singer updates the information. All numbers are self-reported by the observer.

#### Top County Listers

<u>San Bernardino</u>	<u>ABA</u>	<u>NIB</u>
Gene Cardiff	435	
Bill Deppe	390	382
Steve Myers	385	378
Tom Benson	379	371
Michael Patten*		370
Howard King	369	359
Curtis Marantz	365	359
Andrew Howe	364	356
Brad Singer	362	355
Vernon Howe	362	354

<u>Riverside</u>	<u>ABA</u>	<u>NIB</u>
Chet McGaugh	417	407
Guy McCaskie	411	405
Gene Cardiff	406	
Curtis Marantz	398	391
Howard King	395	386
Michael Patten*		385
Jon Dunn		379
Andrew Howe	381	373
Vernon Howe	378	370
Steve Myers	363	357

<u>Imperial</u>	<u>ABA</u>	<u>NIB</u>
Guy McCaskie	417	411
Jon Dunn		365
Curtis Marantz	366	361
Gene Cardiff	360	
Michael Patten*		340
Mike San Miguel		340
Andrew Howe	339	334
John Luther	334	329
Vernon Howe	333	328
Gjon Hazard	332	327

\*Number estimated.

ABA=All birds that are considered countable by the ABA and appear on the official state list published by the CBRC.

NIB=Only birds appearing on the official CBRC state list but excluding any of the 11 introduced species (No Introduced Birds).



### Sedona Hummingbird Festival<sup>SM</sup>

The most beautiful place in America to see hummingbirds!<sup>SM</sup>

The Sedona Hummingbird Festival is always held the first weekend in August, when Sedona's hummingbird population is highest and most diverse—5 or even 6 species instead of the usual 2—and with typically five times the number of hummers as in early summer. Thanks to Sedona's high altitude of 4,500 feet, we escape the intense summer heat experienced in more southern parts of Arizona (more at the Sedona tab). August is also a "low season" for tourism in Sedona, so you'll be able to take advantage of lower lodging prices. We're working on securing deals from participating hotels and motels; see "lodging deals."

Arizona is already well known as the top state for seeing many hummingbird species (a fact that Texas disputes, of course). People travel great distances just to see Arizona's hummers. But Sedona also has Red Rock Country, and that makes it even more desirable to come *here* to see hummingbirds. *Is there a prettier place in America to see hummers?* We don't think so! That's the reason behind the tagline for the Sedona Hummingbird Festival: The Most Beautiful Place in America to See Hummingbirds.

Sedona Hummingbird Festivals were spectacular community events! Residents and businesses were encouraged to include hummer-friendly flowers in their yard. Those lacking time or inclination for gardening put out feeders, especially beginning in June. By keeping the feeders filled and fresh, residents year after year see that migrants will reward their benefactors by returning—with friends and relatives—leading to ever-higher populations. In our dreams, the Hummingbird Society imagines feeders even hanging from the street signs, but that may not happen right away!

**Two 3-Day Passes to the Festival will be in the Silent Auction at our June Meeting!**

(field trips, continued)

**DO NOT COME ON THE TRIP WITHOUT: LOTS OF WATER, a large ice chest, lots of ice and snacks, a hat and sunscreen, a working air conditioner, and a full tank of gas.**

Meeting time and location to be determined. We will stop for lunch in Brawley at some place with air conditioning. Our route will be determined by where the birds of interest are being seen. Motels are available in Brawley and Westmorland for those wishing to spend Friday night in the area. All participants must sign a liability waiver. You may print one out ahead of time and bring it with you, or the trip leader will have forms available on site.

### Saturday-Sunday, July 11-12, 2015 Greenhorn Mountains & the Southern Sierra Steve Myers (951) 634-9767

We will meet at 7:00 am (for breakfast), or 7:45 am (if you don't want breakfast) at Cheryl's Diner in Kernville (11030 Kernville Rd, Kernville, CA 93238-9765; map). From Kernville we will head up into the Greenhorn Mountains. The Greenhorns are at the southern end of the Sierra Nevada, and offer extensive coniferous forests, wet meadows, and spectacular views. We expect to see many of the typical high mountain birds, and the Greenhorns are the southern range limit of birds such as the Pileated Woodpecker, Northern Goshawk, and Pacific Wren. On Saturday night we will be camping at the Long Meadow group campground (toilets, but no water), just north of the Trail of 100 Giants (Sequoias!). We will visit nearby Holey Meadow, which is a great place for Flammulated Owl. Among the other localities visited on this trip will be the Trail of 100 Giants, Portuguese Pass, Tiger Flat, Sherman Pass, and possibly Kennedy Meadows. Be sure to have adequate food and water to last from Saturday morning until Sunday afternoon. We usually plan to stop at a restaurant for an early dinner before heading back to the Inland Empire on Sunday. This trip can be terrific for montane birds, butterflies, small mammals, and herps, and the scenery is unsurpassed!

### Saturday, August 29, 2015 Insane Jaunt to the Salton Sea- PART II Tom Benson (909) 648-0899

How would you like to see birds like Stilt Sandpiper, Neotropical Cormorant, Laughing and Yellow-footed Gulls, Black Terns, Burrowing Owl, Gila Woodpecker, and Large-billed Savannah Sparrow? All those and more may be yours at the mere price of 100+ degree average daily highs in the pungent glory and spectacle of the Salton Sea in summertime. With luck, perhaps something like a Blue-footed Booby, Long-tailed Jaeger, or Magnificent Frigatebird will appear (or is it just the heat?).

**DO NOT COME ON THE TRIP WITHOUT: LOTS OF WATER, a large ice chest, lots of ice and snacks, a hat and sunscreen, a working air conditioner, and a full tank of gas.**

Meeting time and location to be determined. We will stop for lunch in Brawley at some place with air conditioning. Our route will be determined by where the birds of interest are being seen. Motels are available in Brawley and Westmorland for those wishing to spend Friday night in the area. All participants must sign a liability waiver. You may print one out ahead of time and bring it with you, or the trip leader will have forms available on site.



### Feed Your Yard Birds and Help SBVAS

Wild birdseed will be sold at all general meetings of SBVAS as a regular fundraiser for the organization.

The seed is a good blend for the area and will be available in 25 pound bags for \$20.

To get your seed and help SBVAS maintain a regular monthly fundraiser, please pay at the sales table and get a receipt. Then see Kirk Stitt in the parking lot to load your seed.

If possible, you should preorder seed by phoning Kirk at (909) 886-5513. Leave a message about the type of seed you want (thistle, black-oil sunflower, or general purpose mix) and your seed will be ready for pickup at the next general meeting.

14th Annual      June 19-21, 2015      Lee Vining, California

## Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua

Birds    Science    Art    Music    Field Trips



Sagebrush Sparrow in Mono County, CA.  
Image copyright Bob Steele, 2015.

### 2015 Jeff Maurer Chautauqua Research Grant

Each year a portion of the proceeds from the Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua fund a small grant that supports continuing research and education connections. The grant is named in honor of Jeff Maurer, a dedicated field biologist, educator, and long-time Chautauqua presenter. This year we hope to fund up to \$2,500.00 for Mono Basin/Eastern Sierra research. Requests for proposals coming soon.

**This year's musical guest:** Mumbo Gumbo from Davis, CA. This performance is free and open to the public on Sunday, June 21, 2015 at 12:30pm, at Mono Lake County Park! [Contact](#)

[us!](#) Catch the Chautauqua on: [flickr](#)

## Nominating Committee Report

The following slate of officers has been presented by the nominating committee. These officers will be elected at the May general meeting and installed at the June general meeting. They will serve as the board of SBVAS for the 2015-2016 year. Please take a moment to thank them for representing your interests on the board.

**President:** Brad Singer  
**First Vice President:** Kirk Stitt  
**Second Vice President:** Dori Myers  
**Treasurer:** Nancy Higbee  
**Secretary:** Pam Quittmeyer

**Directors:**  
 Gene Cardiff  
 Pete Clark  
 Rose Cook  
 Drew Feldmann  
 Dave Woodward  
 Cin Greyraven  
 Matt Grube  
 Peter Jorris  
 Anthony Metcalf  
 Seth Shtier  
 Linda Stitt



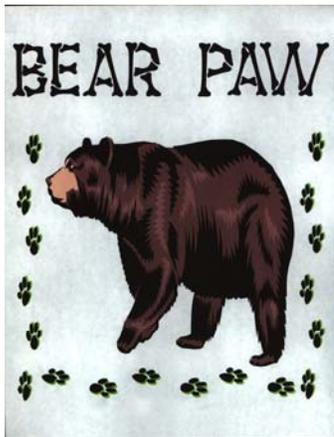
### Bearpaw Ranch

is a 70 acre nature sanctuary, operated by the San Bernardino Audubon Society and may be visited 7 days a week from dawn 'til dusk by members of Audubon and their guests. Bearpaw Ranch is nestled on the north slope of scenic Mill Creek Canyon at 4,500 feet elevation, surrounded by the towering peaks of the San Bernardino National Forest. To reach Bearpaw Ranch, take Highway 38 to the Forest Falls turnoff. Go only a few car lengths on Valley of the Falls Dr. and look for our small wooden sign on the right. We have a new paved road, the entry is easy for almost all normal passenger cars.

There is an electronically operated entry gate. *Members* who wish to visit the Sanctuary should call any board member in advance to get the gate code. It is not a requirement that the caretaker is at home for you to visit. If the gate does not open because of mechanical failure, you are welcome to walk in or stop for birding along the creek bed. Bearpaw Sanctuary, 38801 Valley of the Falls Drive P.O. Box 88; Forest Falls, CA 923396

Bearpaw Sanctuary is now on Facebook.

If you type "Bearpaw Sanctuary" into the SEARCH function, you'll find us. Bearpaw visitors are encouraged to report interesting wildlife sightings and share their favorite nature photos from their Bearpaw



SBVAS Officers 2014/2015  
[www.sbvass.org](http://www.sbvass.org) &  
[www.inlandplanet.org](http://www.inlandplanet.org)

President: Kirk Stitt (909) 886-5513  
 First Vice-President, Program Chair: Dori Myers (714) 779-2201  
 Second Vice President: Dave Woodward (909) 783-2417  
 Treasurer: Nancy Higbee (951) 780-9236  
 Secretary, Meadowlark Editor: Linda Stitt (909) 886-5513

### Directors

Field Trips: Gene Cardiff (909) 875-5358  
 Mountain Conservation Issues: Peter Jorris (909) 867-3536  
 Pete Clark (951) 212-2467  
 Dave Woodward (909) 783-2417  
 Anthony Metcalf (951) 242-7038  
 Brad Singer (909) 838-7951  
 Seth Shtier (760) 332-9776  
 Matt Grube (909) 253-3867  
 Deb Bennett (951) 544-2650  
 Cin Greyraven (909) 720-0138  
 Rose Cook (951) 236-7094

### COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

MEMBERSHIP: Pete Clark (951) 212-2467  
 FIELD TRIPS: Gene Cardiff (909) 875-5358  
 CONSERVATION: Drew Feldmann (909) 881-6081

### WESTERN MEADOWLARK: Editor:

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[linda-stitt@usa.net](mailto:linda-stitt@usa.net)

SBVAS WEBMASTER: Brad Singer [bcsinger@gmail.com](mailto:bcsinger@gmail.com)

BEARPAW RANCH: Cin Grayraven (909) 794-0509

[greyraven@wildmail.com](mailto:greyraven@wildmail.com)

RARE BIRD ALERT: Tom Benson (909)-648-0899 or (909)-537-3309 or [tbenson@csusb.edu](mailto:tbenson@csusb.edu)

### SBVAS BOOKSTORE AND GIFT SHOP:

Nancy Manning (909) 337-9401

### CALENDAR

**Board Meetings:** May 5 and June 2, 2015

**General Meetings:** May 20 and June 3, 2015

All meetings are in the San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands. Board meetings are the first Wednesday of the month, and General Membership meetings are on the third Wednesday of the month. To reach the museum, take the California St. exit off I-10, go north one block to Orange Tree Lane and turn right. The museum will be on your left. Meetings, except potlucks, start at 7:30 and doors open at 7. Potlucks begin at 6:30

(WFO, continued from page 1)

February 2015 with the exact date to be announced via a future WFO News email. If you are NOT currently on our electronic mailing list, please send an email to [erpfromca@aol.com](mailto:erpfromca@aol.com), include your full name along with city and state of residence, and we'll put you on. WFO members are able to register for our conferences at a reduced rate and have early access to registration. If you are not currently a WFO member, you can join at <https://www.westernfieldornithologists.org/join.php>.

*I value my garden more for being full of blackbirds than of cherries, and very frankly give them fruit for their songs.*

Joseph Addison

**Saturday, May 2, 2015 - 7:00 am**

**Big Morongo Preserve**

**Chet McGaugh** (951) 781-3699

The first week in May is about the best time for observing migrant land birds in Southern California and Big Morongo is one of the best places for it. In addition to migrant warblers, vireos and flycatchers, we expect to see the breeding specialties including Vermilion Flycatcher, Yellow-breasted Chat, Summer Tanager, Blue Grosbeak, Bullock's Oriole and Hooded Oriole. Join us for a morning birdwalk on the trails and roads of the preserve and surrounding areas. We will meet at the preserve parking lot at 7:00 am ([map](#)). To get there, take I-10 to Highway 62, go north ten miles to Morongo Valley, then turn right on Park Avenue to Covington Park. Turn left at Covington Park, then do a quick right-left-right into the preserve.

Weather is typically good this time of year. Bring water, snacks and lunch if you plan to make a day of it. Some of us will probably stay out all day. Who knows where the afternoon will lead us?

**Sunday, May 3, 2015 - 8:00 am**

**Box Springs Mountain**

**John Green** (951) 686-2956

Our main target birds here will be Black-chinned, Rufous-crowned, and Bwarblers, buntings, grosbeaks, orioles, and ??? Over 180 species of birds have been recorded in the Box Springs, but 40 species is a more realistic goal for this trip. We should also see some wildflowers and shrubs in bloom, and a variety of butterflies, reptiles, mammals, etc. as well. The walk is all on official trails, but some are narrow. The usual hike is about 3.ell's (Sage) Sparrows, which should be present and singing. We'll look for them and more while going on a hike through grassland, chaparral, and sage scrub and past a spring or two. A few of the other resident and/or breeding birds to be expected on the trip include Rock and Canyon Wrens, California Thrasher, and Phainopepla. We will, of course, also be hoping for a nice crop of migrants including flycatchers, vireos, 5 miles, with a couple of climbs, and a maximum elevation gain of about 650 feet. It is possible that we will cut the hike short if Bell's Sparrows are not present. They have become undependable in recent years. If so, the hike is about 1.5 miles and 450 foot elevation gain. This shortened hike is also an option for those wanting to leave early. Either way, expect to arrive back at the parking lot by lunchtime. If the hike has been cut short due to lack of Bell's Sparrows, those who are interested can follow me on a drive to another spot in the Box Springs where they are currently being found.

We will meet at 7:30 am at the upper parking lot of Box Springs Mountain Reserve ([map](#)). From Highway 60 in Moreno Valley take the Pigeon Pass Road / Frederick Street exit. Take Pigeon Pass north and continue for about 4.2 miles. When Pigeon Pass makes a sharp turn to the right, you will continue straight on Box Springs Mountain Road for about 1.3 miles to the parking area. There is a \$2 per person parking fee box. We will do a lot of walking, so wear appropriate shoes and dress comfortably in layers. Some trails may be overgrown, long pants are advised. Carry water and snacks. There are picnic tables at the parking area, so bring a lunch if you'd like to eat after the hike. See you there!

**Saturday, May 9, 2015 - 8:00 am**

**Whitewater Canyon**

**Steve Myers** (951) 634-9767

Portions of Whitewater Canyon have long been more or less closed to public access, but the former trout farm is now the "Whitewater Canyon Preserve," managed by The Wildlands Conservancy. If you visited the trout farm in the past, you will not know the place now. Most of the facilities have been removed, and habitat restoration is under way. There are still a few ponds with trout, but riparian and desert scrub habitat should be teaming with birds on this trip. The canyon hosts nesting Summer Tanagers and Brown-crested Flycatchers, and migrants should be easy to find. In addition to the Preserve, we will visit Bonnie Bell, a small community in the canyon that contains excellent cottonwood and willow forest and woodland, somewhat reminiscent of Big Morongo. Meet at the Whitewater Canyon Pres

erve at 8:00 am ([map](#)). To reach the Preserve, go east on I-10, past the turn-off for Highway 111, and take the Whitewater exit. Turn left, pass over I-10, and watch for Whitewater Canyon Road on your left. The Preserve is at the end of Whitewater Canyon Road, approximately 5 miles north of I-10. Bring sturdy footwear, water, lunch, and the usual essentials.

**Saturday, May 16, 2015 - 9:00 am**

**Baby Birds at Bearpaw Ranch**

**Cin Greyraven** (909) 794-0509

Join us for a trip into the hidden world of nesting birds at Bearpaw Nature Sanctuary in Forest Falls ([map](#)). Biologist Cin Greyraven will lead the group in its search for evidence of breeding behavior in the common birds of the chaparral and forest. Since 1994, Bearpaw Sanctuary has been part of the National Nest Box Trail system, offering homes to Western Bluebirds, Oak Titmice, House Wrens, Mountain Chickadees, and Ash-throated Flycatchers. Learn what types of nest boxes work best and how monitoring data by average citizens across the continent can contribute to scientific research. Learn how to monitor a nest box without disturbing the nesting effort. Enjoy a peek inside the usually inaccessible world of cavity nesters, and learn to recognize different species by their nests, eggs, and chicks. Bring binoculars for long-distance viewing and cameras for close-up snapshots. Children are welcome. For additional information, call (909) 794-0509.

**Sunday, May 17, 2015, 8:00AM**

**Palm Springs Aerial Tramway/San Jacinto Mountains**

**John Green** (951) 686-2956

We will be taking a rapid ride from the desert to the mountains. We climb on to the tram at 2,643 feet elevation and get off at 8,516 twelve minutes later. From there we will soon enter Mount San Jacinto State Park. We will do some hiking, looking for montane specialties such as White-headed Woodpecker, Williamson's Sapsucker, Clark's Nutcracker, Pygmy Nuthatch, Red Crossbill, and Cassin's Finch. Depending on the speed of the group and the numbers of birds, we may make it to Round Valley Meadow, an approximately 4.5 mile round trip from the station, with an elevation gain of about 500 feet.

Group size is limited to 15 by the state park, so it is imperative that you tell me in advance if you plan to go. If possible, please don't call. Email bewickwren@earthlink.net to ask questions or get on the trip list. In order for us all to get on the first tram up, after confirming that you are on the trip you should also buy your ticket online for the 8AM tram as soon as they go on sale. Tickets for May 17th will go on sale on approximately April 5th. Mark your calendar! The tram's website is: pstramway.com

The tram won't be far away, but we will be in the wilderness. Bring a daypack with plenty of food and water and other hiking supplies (I suggest the ten essentials: [tinyurl.com/ldx2xwk](http://tinyurl.com/ldx2xwk)). Wear sturdy hiking shoes and sensible clothing, including layers. Stay with the group. Don't come on this trip if you doubt your fitness to walk, sometimes uphill, for up to five miles at high elevation. We will stay on the mountain until early afternoon at a minimum, but if birding is great or the group is slow, it may be longer. Hope to see you in the mountains!

### **Saturday, June 6, 2015 San Bernardino Mountains Brad Singer (909) 838-7951**

The San Bernardino Mountains trip will meet outside the Starbucks located in the Von's shopping center on Big Bear Blvd. and Sandalwood Drive (map) at 6:30 am. We will spend the morning at Arrastre Creek and environs where expected species include Black-chinned Sparrow, Green-tailed Towhee, Lazuli Bunting, Scott's Oriole, and Mountain Quail. We will also search for Hepatic Tanager, Indigo Bunting, Calliope Hummingbird, Plumbeous Vireo, Gray Vireo, and Pinyon Jay. About midday we'll bird around Big Bear Lake in search of any lingering shorebirds, terns, and raptors, and then spend the afternoon up at Wildhorse Meadows in search of Williamson's Sapsucker, Dusky Flycatcher, Cassin's Finch, Townsend's Solitaire, and Clark's Nutcracker. For those wanting to continue on, we will stop in Big Bear for an early dinner, and then head to Green Canyon in search of Mexican Whip-poor-wills and owls. Expect a long day, bring plenty of water, lunch, and sturdy hiking shoes. A vehicle with high clearance is recommended but not required. Please don't forget that you will need a National Forest Adventure Pass. For more information, contact Brad Singer at (909) 838-7951.

### **Saturday, June 13, 2015 - 7:30 am Wrightwood & Blue Ridge Gene Cardiff (909) 875-5358**

The San Gabriel Mountains trip will start at the California Department of Forestry Mormon Rocks Station on Highway 138 at 7:30 am (map). Take I-15 north from San Bernardino or south from the Victor Valley and turn toward Palmdale on Highway 138. The CDF Station is located 1.5 miles up Hwy 138 on the left side of the road, opposite the large sandstone formation called the Mormon Rocks. (There are no restrooms at the CDF Station, use the restrooms at the gas stations near the off ramp.) After birding that area for 30-45 minutes, we will proceed up Lone Pine Canyon Rd into Wrightwood to Big Pines and eventually wind up at 8000 feet and Blue Ridge Campground for lunch. Bring a lunch, liquids and a good pair of shoes. We will look for mountain birds such as the Fox Sparrow, Green-tailed Towhee, Dusky Flycatcher, and Williamson's Sapsucker. Please don't forget: you will need an Adventure Pass (we will stop at the ranger station).

## Calendar for Field Trips 2014 to 2015



**Saturday, May 2, 2015 - 7:00 am  
Big Morongo Preserve**



**Sunday, May 3, 2015 - 8:00 am  
Box Springs Mountain**



**Saturday, May 9, 2015 - 8:00 am  
Whitewater Canyon**



**Saturday, May 16, 2015 - 9:00 am  
Baby Birds at Bearpaw Ranch**



**Sunday, May 17, 2014  
Palm Springs Aerial Tramway/San Jacinto Mountains**



**Saturday, June 6, 2015  
San Bernardino Mountains**



**Saturday, June 13, 2014 - 7:30 am  
Wrightwood & Blue Ridge**



**Saturday, June 27, 2015  
Insane Jaunt to the Salton Sea- PART I**



**Saturday-Sunday, July 11-12, 2014  
Greenhorn Mountains & the Southern Sierra**



**Saturday, August 29, 2015  
Insane Jaunt to the Salton Sea- PART II**



### **Saturday, June 27, 2015 Insane Jaunt to the Salton Sea- PART I Tom Benson (909) 648-0899**

How would you like to see birds like Neotropic Cormorant, Wood Stork, Laughing and Yellow-footed Gulls, Least, Gull-billed and Black Terns, Burrowing Owl, Gila Woodpecker, and Bronzed Cowbird? All those and more may be yours at the mere price of 100+ degree average daily highs in the pungent glory and spectacle of the Salton Sea in summertime. With luck, perhaps something like a Fulvous Whistling-Duck, Tricolored Heron, Roseate Spoonbill, or Magnificent Frigatebird will appear (or is it just the heat?).

*(Trip notes continued on page 4, field trips)*

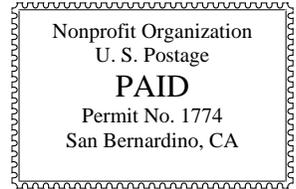
#### **Field Trip Checklist**

Comfortable shoes or hiking boots, hat, sunscreen, insect repellent.  
A good Road Map,  
Full fuel tank, drinking water, snacks and lunch, binoculars and or a scope, field guide  
Come and Enjoy. Call Field Trip Leader for last minute cancellations, questions or changes... ☺

May/June 2015

Western Meadowlark

**THE WESTERN MEADOWLARK**  
c/o San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society  
P. O. Box 10973  
San Bernardino, CA 92423-0973



Everyone is always welcome!

All meetings in the San Bernardino County Museum 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands

Board Meetings are the 1st Wed.  
General meetings are the 3rd Wed.  
SBVAS Membership currently at 2,393

To reach the Museum, take the California Street exit off the 10 Freeway and go north 1 block to Orange Tree Lane—turn right. The museum will be on your left...



**Chapter Only Membership Application**  
San Bernardino Valley Audubon

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_SBVAS Membership @ \$24 a/year (includes subscription to *The Western Meadowlark*)

\_\_\_I wish to receive the *Western Meadowlark* **only** electronically

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please enclose a check payable to SBVAS



**Membership Application**  
National Audubon Society (NAS)

\_\_\_NAS New Member/ Gift Membership \$20 (renewal will be \$35, includes 1 year of *Audubon* magazine, 1 year Chapter membership, 1 year subscription to *Western Meadowlark* if in SBVAS area)

\_\_\_NAS Regular/Renewal Membership \$35 (includes 1 year of *Audubon* magazine)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to National Audubon Society

SBVAS Chapter  
C2ZC110Z

Please clip and mail all memberships to: SBVAS Membership Chair  
P.O. Box 10973  
San Bernardino, Ca. 92423-0973

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